



22 February, 2021

Crowder Lake Opening Day Set for March 27

A full day of free activities—including a playground groundbreaking and Volkswagen Club of Oklahoma cruise—are planned Saturday, March 27, as part of Crowder Lake Opening Day for the 2021 summer season.

The Crowder Lake University Park, located seven miles south of Weatherford, is operated by Southwestern Oklahoma State University (SWOSU).

“Activities for all ages will be open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with rentals and equipment use available until 5 p.m.,” Park Director Paul Hummel said. “There will be kayaks, canoes, stand-up paddle boards, a rappelling tower, rock wall, slack line and a zip line.”

Meals and snacks will be available for purchase from a variety of different food trucks. COVID precautions such as responsible distancing and wearing facial coverings when distancing is not possible will be in place to keep this a safe, fun outdoor event for all.

Three competitions will be held as part of opening day: Dutch Over Cook-Off, Downhill Derby Racing and a Slack Line competition. For competition registration and rules, please email crowder@swosu.edu.

At 11 a.m., a groundbreaking ceremony will be held for the Dr. Ken Rose Memorial Playground. Rose was an instrumental SWOSU leader who helped oversee the transition of Crowder Lake from the Oklahoma State Parks system to an outdoor classroom overseen by SWOSU. The playground is a joint effort of the Weatherford Rotary Club and the SWOSU Foundation, Inc.

The Volkswagen Club of Oklahoma will be cruising in the park during the day as well.

Attendees may also sign up on site during opening day to join the Friends of Crowder Lake, a nonprofit support organization that has been established to provide outdoorsmen and outdoorswomen, conservationists, and nature lovers a way to positively impact Crowder Lake through charitable investment. Friends receive recognition from SWOSU and enjoy members-only gear, benefits and opportunities.

Schedule of events:

- 10 a.m.- Dutch Oven Cook-off Participants meeting
- 11 a.m.- Dr. Ken Rose Memorial Playground groundbreaking
- 1 p.m.- Downhill Derby Race check-in and inspection
- 2 p.m.- Downhill Derby Race
- 3 p.m.- Dutch Oven Judging

The poster for Crowder Lake Opening Day features a blue background with white text. At the top, it says 'CROWDER LAKE' in large letters, with 'ZIP LINING | FREE WATERCRAFT RENTALS | ROCK WALL CLIMBING' below it. The middle section has 'OPENING DAY' in large letters, followed by 'SATURDAY, MARCH 27 | 10 AM - 5 PM' and 'KEN ROSE MEMORIAL PLAYSET GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY | 11 AM'. The bottom section lists 'DOWNHILL DERBY RACE | RAPPELLING | DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF'. There are also smaller images of people participating in these activities. At the bottom, there are two boxes: one for 'REGISTRATION & RULES FOR DERBY RACE & COOK-OFF EMAIL: CROWDER@SWOSU.EDU' and another for 'HOW CAN YOU POSITIVELY IMPACT CROWDER LAKE? - VISIT: FRIENDSOFSWOSUCROWDERLAKE.COM'.

For more information on opening day, please contact the Crowder Lake University Park Office at 580-774-6015. For information on how to join the Friends of Crowder Lake, please visit www.FriendsOfSWOSUCrowderLake.com.

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